

REMARKS

Please cancel Claims 1 and 7 - 12 without prejudice. These claims have been canceled without prejudice so that the present application may be allowed. It is expressly not conceded that the rejection of these claims is proper. Applicant may elect to continue the prosecution of these claims in a continuing application.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 1 - 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for the reasons stated on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now moot as far as it applies to Claims 1 and 7 - 12 as these claims have been cancelled hereunder without prejudice. Claims 2 and 16 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion on page 2 of the Office Action in order to provide proper antecedent basis for the claims. As this rejection is now overcome, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1, 7 - 8, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over WO 01/07703 (hereinafter "WIPO '703") for the reasons of record stated on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now moot as Claims 1, 7 - 8, and 12 have been cancelled hereunder without prejudice. Hence, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 9 - 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WIPO '703 for the reasons of record stated on page 3 of the Office Action.

Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is now moot as Claims 9 - 11 have been cancelled hereunder without prejudice. Hence, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that Claims 2 - 6 and 13 - 15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Office Action also indicates that Claims 16 - 26 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant has rewritten Claims 2 - 6 and 13 - 26 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. It is believed that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

SUMMARY

This is responsive to the Office Action dated September 27, 2005. Claims 1 and 7 - 12 stand cancelled hereunder without prejudice. As Claims 2 - 6 and 13 - 26 are now in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued for these Claims.

Respectfully submitted,
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